EVERY GAMBLER WHO HAS FACED HER
REACHES A POINT WHERE THEY SUDDENLY REALIZE
"SHE'S JUST TOYING WITH ME!"
A NEW ERA OF GAMBLING MANGA HAS JUST BEGUN!
MangaBox
AND WHEN SHE NOTICES THEY'VE CAUGHT ON
he he
SHE SOFTLY SMILES.

The Godlike Gambler
ARIMARIA
~once upon a time~
Story by
Kenji Sakumoto
Art by
Isora
Translation by Devon Corwin
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
YKS Services, LLC / SKY Japan Inc.

TOKYO SOMETIME IN THE 21ST CENTURY
RING-A-LING
...
ARE YOU OPEN?
WE HAVE QUITE A VARIETY OF GOODS IN STOCK TODAY!
ME! PICK ME!
NO, PICK ME!!
CLAMOR
PLEASE TAKE YOUR TIME AND CHOOSE THE ONE THAT BEST FITS YOUR FANCY!
OH, IF IT ISN'T LADY MARIA!
GRIN.
IT'S QUITE RARE TO SEE YOU AROUND THESE PARTS!
HIGEMATSU, THE SLAVER
...I'M GOING HOME.
MUTTER MUTTER
WHAT?!

I ONLY CAME INSIDE BECAUSE IT WAS STARTING TO SNOW.
PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR WINDOW SHOPPING.
W-WELL, THAT'S UNDER-STANDABLE.
HM?
AND BESIDES, MY HOUSEHOLD ALREADY HAS NEARLY 100 SERVANTS.
CRUSHED...
AW, MAN!
I'M VERY SATISFIED WITH OUR CURRENT STAFF.
HEY! ARIMA!!
ACK!
YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR RE-STRAINTS!
YOU AREN'T TRYING TO ESCAPE, ARE YOU?!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
N... NO! I WOULD NEVER!
YOU'RE ALREADY SPOKEN FOR! NOW SIT PRETTY UNTIL YOUR NEW OWNER ARRIVES!
LEAN...

…
…

IT'S TRUE. YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR RESTRAINTS.
THE DOOR'S STANDING WIDE OPEN, AND YOUR MASTER WAS DISTRACTED, THANKS TO ME.
WHY NOT TAKE THE CHANCE TO RUN?
WHY NOT ...?
WELL, IF I RAN AWAY, WOULDN'T THAT CAUSE TROUBLE FOR MR. HIGEMATSU?
I DON'T WANT TO ESCAPE. I JUST WANTED MY FOOT FREE.
...
I'M SENSITIVE TO IRON.
... WHAT?
I WILL ASK YOU A QUESTION. THE ANSWER YOU GIVE MAY DETERMINE YOUR FUTURE.
PLEASE ANSWER HONESTLY.
WHAT A STRANGE BOY...
YOUR NAME IS ARIMA, IS IT NOT?

PICTURE THIS, ARIMA...
SWASH...
YOU ARE STANDING ALONE ON A BEACH.
SPLASH
SPLOOSH
ABOUT 30 METERS INTO THE WATER,
AH!
YOU SEE A YOUNG MAN AND A YOUNG WOMAN DROWNING.
THERE ARE NO BOATS OR OTHER PEOPLE AROUND TO HELP.
IF YOU HURRY, YOU CAN SAVE ONE,
BUT TRY FOR BOTH AND THEY'LL DRAG YOU UNDER. ALL THREE OF YOU WILL DROWN.
WELL, ARIMA? WHAT DO YOU DO?
DO YOU RESCUE ONE OF THEM?
DO YOU LEAVE THEM BOTH TO DIE?
SAVE THEM
YOU HAVE THIRTY SECONDS.

M-ME?
BY THE WAY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO, MR. HIGE-MATSU?
Hmm
IS THIS A TRICK QUESTION?
W... WELL, I SUPPOSE I'D HAVE TO SAVE THE YOUNG WOMAN.
WHAT?
HOW PREDICTABLE.
WHAT WAS I EXPECTING FROM YOU?
MUTTER MUTTER
TWENTY SECONDS LEFT.
DO YOU HAVE AN ANSWER?
MMM
MMMM MM
HM?
...

ARIMA! THE LADY WANTS AN ANSWER!
QUIET.
...
IF I GO FOR HELP, I'LL LOSE TRACK OF THEM! WHAT IF I START WITH JUST ONE...?
NO, BY THE TIME I SAVE ONE, THE OTHER IS DONE FOR!
AND THEY'RE STRUGGLING DESPERATELY!
IF I TRY TO GRAB BOTH, THEY'LL PULL ME UNDER TOO!
AH!
WHAT ABOUT
BUOYANCY!
FATTY TISSUE FLOATS IN WATER!

Raaa aaaaa aaaaa aaaaa aagh!
SPLOOSH
SPLASH
IF THE GIRL HAS DDD-CUP BOOBS OR BIGGER,
I CAN EXPLOIT BUOYANCY TO SAVE THE GUY TOO!
WAIT!
tension
NO, THAT WON'T WORK! NO MATTER HOW BIG HER BOOBS ARE,
TWO BOOBS CAN'T SAVE THREE PEOPLE!
sion
WE'D NEED MORE BOOBS!
ten

I'M RUNNING OUT OF TIME!
I'VE GOT TO THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE...
TEN SECONDS LEFT.
...
IF...
IF I WAS GOING TO SAVE THEM...
I WOULD...
THAT'S IT!
AH!
...OR WE'LL ALL DROWN!
HUH?
WE'LL ALL DROWN?

WHAT?!
ALLOW THEM TO DROWN.
IF I ATTEMPT TO GRAB THEM WHILE THEY STRUGGLE, ALL THREE OF US WILL DROWN.
INSTEAD, I'LL *PURPOSELY* LET THEM DROWN FIRST. ONCE UNCONSCIOUS, I'LL DRAG THEM TO SAFETY.
THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO DRAG ME UNDER,
AND THEY'LL ONLY BE OUT FOR A SHORT TIME, SO I CAN MOST LIKELY REVIVE THEM WITH MOUTH-TO-MOUTH.

TO SAVE THEM, KILL THEM.
BAM!
THAT IS MY ANSWER!
...
VERY GOOD.
hehehe
I WASN'T EXPECTING SUCH A WELL-REASONED ANSWER ♪
M. MILADY?
MR. HIGE-MATSU
he he

AH!
I WANT THIS ONE PLEASE♪
HUH?
BUT, LADY MARIA!
THIS SLAVE ALREADY HAS AN OWNER!
SMILE
TOO BAD. I WANT HIM.
LET ME DISCUSS IT WITH THE OWNER.
IF- IF YOU INSIST I BELIEVE SHE IS ON THE PREMISES..
VERY GOOD♪ BRING HER TO ME.
SOME REFRESHMENT...
CLINK
I SEE. YOU ALSO MANAGE A RESTAURANT?
YES. BUSINESS IS SLOW THIS TIME OF DAY. I'LL SEE NO-ONE DISTURBS YOU WHILE YOU WAIT.

SLAM!
THANK YOU.
I WILL RETURN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE WITH HIS OWNER.
EXCUSE ME...
WHAT IS IT?
WHY DO YOU WANT TO BUY ME?
THERE ARE PLENTY OF STRONGER OR SMARTER ONES THAN ME.
WAS IT BECAUSE OF YOUR RIDDLE?
DID I FIND THE RIGHT ANSWER?
THERE WAS NO RIGHT ANSWER.
HUH?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO YOU SAVE OR IF YOU DON'T SAVE EITHER.
EVERYONE WILL HAVE A DIFFERENT REACTION WHEN PUT UNDER SUCH PRESSURE.

YOUR ANSWER WAS QUITE ORIGINAL.
IT PLEASED ME.
IT'S NOT ABOUT A CORRECT SOLUTION.
WHAT I LOOK FOR IS HOW YOU APPROACH THE TASK.
I SUPPOSE THERE WAS ONE OTHER FACTOR... YOU REMIND ME OF MY DOG, SEAN.
heh
CRUSHED
your dog?!
HEHE. THAT WAS A JOKE.
Boo

WHA?
SLIP
IS THIS THE ONE, HIGE-MATSU?
THE LITTLE GIRL WHO WANTS TO TAKE MY TOY AWAY?
MAYBE I'LL CRUSH YOUR HANDS WITH MY HIGH HEELS?
I'M SO EXCITED TO PLAY WITH YOU ONCE WE'RE HOME...
LIIICK
AH!
I HAVE YOU NOW, MY LITTLE ARIMA!
HA!
I'D LIKE THAT.

IT IS, LADY AKAHINA.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
OH HO?
PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, MISS AKAHINA. IF I MAY BE DIRECT,
I WISH TO PURCHASE YOUR SLAVE.
I'M PREPARED TO PAY A SUITABLE SUM FOR THE INCONVENIENCE.
SHUT
LADY AKAHINA,
THIS GENTLEWOMAN IS DAUGHTER TO OUR ILLUSTRIOUS RULER.
AS A MERE MERCHANT, I WAS UNABLE TO DISSUADE HER .
WHAT ?!
HOLD ON A SEC!
YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT THIS LITTLE GIRL IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE RULING FAMILY?

YOU'RE THE PRODIGY THAT EVEN OTHER TOP GAMBLERS CALL
THE GODLIKE GAMBLER!
SHE'S MARIA HOSHI-MUNE?!
THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF THE LEGENDARY HOSHIMUNE GAMBLER FAMILY!
I HATE TO CONTRACT OUR CONTRACT WHEN WE'VE JUST MADE CONTACT, BUT...
THAT BEING THE CASE, WON'T YOU CONSIDER SELLING TO LADY MARIA?
I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS FAMOUS!
WOW ...

AH!
SLAM!
CONTRACT THE CONTRACT? CONTACT?? YOU LITTLE FREAK!
I BET YOU THINK YOU'RE SO FUNNY, HUH?!
WELL, LET ME TELL YOU! THE ONE THING I HATE MOST IN THIS WORLD IS A BAD PUN!
GRIND
GRIND
ONE MORE PUN AND YOU'RE DEAD!
URGH...

slam
ALTHOUGH, THIS IS THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME!
FATE MUST'VE BROUGHT US TO-GETHER.
I'M A PRO GAMBLER TOO, SEE?
IF I BEAT HER, I'LL GET FAMOUS MYSELF!
GET TO THE POINT.
TURN
...
WHY DON'T WE BET ON IT?
IF YOU WIN, YOU GET HIM. IF I WIN, YOU GET NAKED!
WHAT?!

...
AND YOU WANT TO SEE ME NAKED?
WHAT I REALLY WANT IS PROOF I BEAT YOU.
A PHOTO WILL DO NICELY.
THE HOSHIMUNE NAME IS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS IN THE WHOLE GAMBLING WORLD.
TO GAMBLE AGAINST THE FAMILY HEIR IS A DREAM COME TRUE!
REALLY, I'M GOOD EITHER WAY.
WHETHER YOU TAKE MY BET OR NOT IS UP TO YOU.
THE HOSHIMUNE FAMILY RULES THIS ENTIRE REGION!
IF A NUDE PHOTOGRAPH OF THE HEIR, LADY MARIA, IS LEAKED...
THE PEOPLE'S RESPECT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY WILL BE IN RUINS!
HOW DREAD-FUL!
SHOULD THE YOUNG MISTRESS HAPPEN TO LOSE...
CLINK
WHY?
WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT IT?

IF THE MISTRESS IS STRIPPED,
SOCIETY ITSELF WILL CRUMBLE!
WHAT?!
NO WAY!
SHE CAN'T BE CONSIDERING SUCH A RISKY BET...!

I HAVE NOTHING TO DO UNTIL THE SNOW LETS UP, ANYWAY.
YOU DON'T GET IT? I MEANT, I'LL PLAY WITH YOU.
HM?
AND?
WHAT'S YOUR GAME?
ALTHOUGH, I MUST WARN YOU...
MY BODY DOES NOT COME CHEAP.
BA-DUH!!
THIS STORY CONTINUES NEXT WEEK! THE SEQUEL STORY BEGINS IN SHONEN MAGAZINE ISSUE #27! (AVAILABLE IN JAPAN ONLY)

YOU'LL PLAY WITH ME?
SURE ABOUT THAT?
I SUPPOSE THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED OF THE HEIR TO A FAMOUS GAMBLING FAMILY,
BUT AREN'T YOU TAKING THIS A LITTLE LIGHTLY?
Story by
Kenji Sakumoto
Art by
Isora
MangaBox
Translation by Devon Corwin
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
YKS Services, LLC. / SKY Japan Inc.

...
WELL, WHATEVER
IF YOU WIN, I'LL GIVE YOU MY PRETTY LITTLE TOY.
AND IF YOU LOSE, AS PROOF OF MY VICTORY,
WE'LL HAVE A PRIVATE NUDE PHOTO SHOOT, YES?
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
LET'S GO ALREADY.
grrr
DON'T YOU LOOK DOWN ON ME!
FINE! I WAS GOING TO GO EASY ON YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE JUST A KID,

BUT NOW I'LL DESTROY YOU!
I'LL TORMENT YOU SLOWLY, BIT BY BIT,
UNTIL THE DISGRACE IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU TO BEAR!
...
IF A NUDE PHOTOGRAPH OF THE HEIR, LADY MARIA, IS LEAKED,
THE PEOPLE'S RESPECT FOR THE HOSHIMUNE FAMILY WILL BE IN RUINS!
MARIA ...
LADY ...

WHY TAKE SUCH A RISK?
WHY ...?
...
SOCIETY ITSELF WILL CRUMBLE!
...
IF YOU LOSE,
EVERY-ONE WILL SEE YOU NAKED!
YOUR BOOBS AND BUTT AND ALL!
SO, MISS AKAHINA, WHAT SHALL WE PLAY TODAY?
HMM... LET'S MAKE IT SOMETHING SIMPLE.
YOU SAID YOUR BODY DIDN'T COME CHEAP,
SO WHY FIGHT WITH JUST ME AS THE PRIZE?

HMM ...
AH HA!
CLINK
CLIP CLOP
SORRY FOR THE DELAY.
RATTLE
トク
POUR
トク
トク
POUR
トク

HOW ABOUT CUP & COIN?
Jingle
CUP & COIN? WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S A GAME ABOUT SURFACE TENSION!
MASTER!

I'M SURE YOU'VE SEEN IT BEFORE. AS A GAME, IT'S CALLED CUP & COIN!
THAT'S RIGHT! THIS IS A POPULAR EXPERIMENT FOR SCIENCE SHOWS ON TV...
...LETS IT BULGE OVER THE GLASS'S LIP BUT NOT SPILL!
THE SURFACE TENSION OF A LIQUID IS A FORCE WHICH...
IF YOUR COIN CAUSES THE WATER TO SPILL, YOU LOSE.
THE RULES ARE SIMPLE. WE TAKE TURNS DROPPING COINS INTO THE WATER-FILLED CUP.
SO...
BUT JUST TAKING TURNS IS SO BORING WITHOUT SOMETHING TO SPICE IT UP!
SOUNDS EASY ENOUGH.
...
WHAT?!
YOUR OPPONENT REMOVES AN ARTICLE OF CLOTHING?
HOW ABOUT, FOR EACH COIN YOU DROP IN,

AND YOU ALSO LOSE IF YOU END UP NAKED BEFORE THE WATER SPILLS!
TWO SOURCES OF TENSION WORKING TOGETHER!
WHAT DO YOU SAY? EXCITING, RIGHT?
OH NO!
EVEN NEGOTIATING THE RULES IS PART OF THE COMPETITION!
HEH HEH HEH... STRIP GAMES ARE MY SPECIALTY!
IF I CAN GET HER TO AGREE, I'VE ALREADY WON!
FINE WITH ME.
... HUH?
gulp
...

DID YOU NOT HEAR ME?
I SAID, YOUR RULES ARE AGREEABLE.
I WILL, OF COURSE, NEED TO INSPECT THE CUP AND THE COINS.
I ASSUME THAT'S OKAY?
UH.
YES! YES, OF COURSE!
SLIP...
I'LL START WITH THE CUP.

WHAT THE HELL? HOW DOES SHE LET RULES LIKE THAT PASS WITH NO OBJECTIONS?!
...
NOBODY IS THAT EASYGOING!
WHAT ON EARTH IS SHE THINKING ...?
YOU'VE HEARD OF "CHARON'S OBOL"?
...
PING!
CLAP
ACCORDING TO THE GREEKS, A GREAT RIVER SEPARATES THE WORLD OF THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.
THE DEAD MUST PAY A FEE TO THE FERRYMAN, CHARON, TO CROSS.
THE COIN USED TO PAY WAS AN OBOL, HENCE THE NAME "CHARON'S OBOL."

THE PRACTICE SPREAD TO ROME AS WELL.
ROMAN DEAD WERE BURIED WITH A COIN.
HOW FASCINATING. WELL, LET'S JUST HOPE
THIS COIN IS NOT YOUR "CHARON'S OBOL"!
AWW ...
THE WHOLE REASON I SAID THAT WAS TO USE THAT LINE ON YOU!
THE CUP AND THE COINS CHECK OUT.
CLINK
SHALL WE BEGIN?
THIS IS THE GODLIKE GAMBLER? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!

WELL THEN ...
AFTER YOU! ♪
CAN'T SHE SEE
SHE'S ALREADY LOST?!
MARIA HOSHIMUNE!
LIFT
IF YOU'VE LET THINGS PROGRESS THIS FAR,
YOU HAVE ONLY YOURSELF TO BLAME FOR YOUR LOSS!
ALL RIGHT. HERE GOES THE FIRST COIN!

...
...
スッ
PLOP!

wibble
wob
ble
...
LOOKS LIKE
COIN NUMBER ONE IS OKAY.
NOW, AS AGREED, YOU NEED TO SHED SOME CLOTHING!
rustle

IS THIS SUFFI-CIENT?
FLIP!!
SINCE YOU'RE STRIPPING ANYWAY, CAN'T YOU BE A BIT SEXIER ABOUT IT?
HM?
GRAB!
SORRY TO DIS-APPOINT. MY TURN!

EARLIER, WHEN I FETCHED THE CUPS & WATER,
I ADDED LOTS AND LOTS OF SALT!
POUR
THE SURFACE TENSION OF SALTWATER IS STRONGER THAN FRESH!
AND THE SALTIER, THE STRONGER!
HEH HEH.. YOU SHOULD GET YOUR EYES CHECKED, MARIA HOSHIMUNE!
GRIN
I'M ALWAYS PREPARED FOR ANY POSSIBILITY!
THE WATER IN THE CUP!
THAT BEING..
YOU'VE COMPLETELY MISSED MY WINNING MOVE!

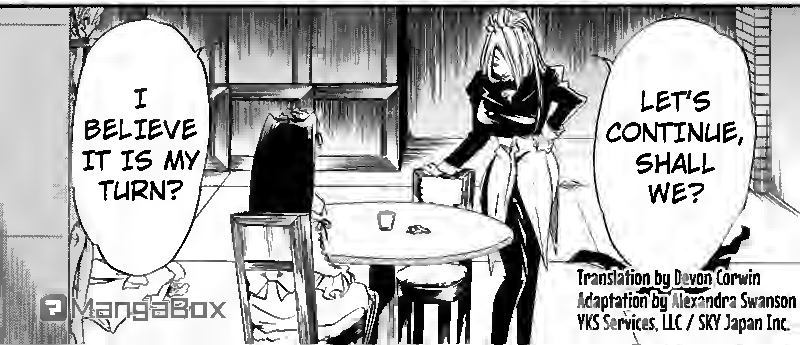
RIGHT NOW, THAT CUP IS FULL OF HIGH CONCENTRATION SALTWATER!
DROP THE COINS CAREFULLY AND IT'LL EASILY TAKE 10 OR EVEN 20!
IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO SPILL!
DO YOU GET WHAT THAT MEANS, MARIA HOSHIMUNE?!
ALL RIGHT, IT'S IN. ONE ARTICLE, IF YOU PLEASE.
plop
ABSO-LUTELY.
THOSE ARE THE RULES, AFTER ALL.
I SUPPOSE MY JACKET WILL BE FIRST.
slip
WH-
WHAT?!
BAM!
UNDER THE JACKET IS ANOTHER JACKET?!

HEH HEH... DIDN'T I SAY I WAS A PRO GAMBLER?
I'M ALWAYS PREPARED FOR A GAME, NO MATTER THE TIME!
WOW!!
WOW!
MY OUTFIT CONSISTS OF TWO JACKETS...
TWO BLOUSES, THREE BRAS...
AND FOUR PAIRS OF PANTIES!
AND THOSE AREN'T JUST ANY PANTIES...
THEY'RE MY LUCKY UNDER-WEAR!
TOSS!!
DO YOU GET IT NOW, MARIA HOSHI-MINE?
PLAYING A STRIP GAME AGAINST ME GUARANTEES YOU'LL BE NAKED LONG BEFORE ME!

SHAKY
AT THIS RATE, LADY MARIA WILL BE NAKED LONG BEFORE THE WATER SPILLS!
THIS ISN'T GOOD!
AH!
LOOK AT HER OUTFIT!
WHAT?!
NO WAY!
ALTHOUGH IT'S FANCY, THAT'S A ONE-PIECE DRESS!
IF THE NEXT ARTICLE REMOVED IS HER TOP, THE BOTTOM WILL COME TOO!
SHE'LL DEFINITELY LOSE A LONG DRAWN-OUT CONTEST!
EVEN WITHOUT SPILLING THE WATER, SHE'LL...

SHE'LL SPILL HERSELF!
HER OWN "SURFACE TENSION" WILL BREAK!
LADY MARIA!
...
ARGH!
THE STORY CONTINUES! READ THE SEQUEL TOO, ONLY IN SHONEN MAGAZINE! (AVAILABLE IN JAPAN ONLY)

EVEN IF YOU ADD OVER A DOZEN COINS, THE SURFACE TENSION WILL HOLD!
FLIP
UNKNOWN TO MY OPPONENT, THE GLASS IS FULL OF SALT-WATER!
Story by
Kenji Sakumoto
Art by
Isora
WHICH MEANS YOU'RE THE ONE GETTING NAKED TODAY, MARIA HOSHIMUNE!!
AND I'M WEARING MORE THAN TEN ARTICLES OF CLOTHING UNDER MY PANTS AND JACKET!



Translation by Devon Corwin
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
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PLUNGE
I'LL PEEL OFF YOUR PRETTY LITTLE OUTFIT...
...PIECE BY PIECE! JUST WATCH ME!
SLOWLY
...
...
HEH HEH. OF COURSE THE THIRD COIN IS NO PROBLEM!
AND NOW SHE'LL-
wibble
wobble...

AM I JUST IMAGINING THINGS?
FOR A MOMENT THERE, I THOUGHT...
THIS WAS THE VERY MOMENT
AKAHINA BEGAN TO WORRY.
YOU'RE QUITE GOOD AT THIS.
CREAK
NO, THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
...
DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR A FIRST-TIMER?

PUT IT IN QUICKLY, THEN PAY ATTENTION TO THE MOTION.
THE MOVEMENTS CHANGE A BIT WITH EACH INSERTION.
STUDY THEM AND YOU'LL KNOW HOW MUCH MORE YOU CAN PUT IN.
YOU WON'T GET A HAPPY ENDING IF YOU DON'T CONCENTRATE ON THE MOTION. GOT IT?
YOUR EXPLAN-ATION WAS FULL OF INNUENDO!
YOU'RE NOT JUST A SKILLED GAMBLER BUT ALSO SKILLED AT WORDPLAY!
WHAT?!
HM?
HOW RISQUÉ! HEHE.
SHAKE
HOW ...
...
SNAP!

SHUT YOUR GODDAMN MOUTH AND STRIP!
MARIA HOSHI-MUNE!
GLARE
HOW DARE YOU?!
I DESPISE PUNS, INNU-ENDO, AND WORDPLAY OF ALL KINDS!
...
FLOOF
...
...
LADY MARIA ...
SNAP!
SNAP!
rustle

NOW IT'S MY TURN!
SLOWLY
THE THIRD COIN GAVE AKAHINA A LINGERING DOUBT...
...
...

I KNOW FROM THE WATER'S MOTION EXACTLY HOW MANY COINS IT CAN TAKE.
I CAN TELL BECAUSE I'VE PLAYED THIS VERY GAME HUNDREDS OF TIMES!
...A DOUBT THAT THE UNTHINKABLE HAD OCCURED!
IT WOULD MEAN THIS WATER IS...!
BECAUSE IF NOT, IT WOULD MEAN...
I CAN ONLY HOPE I MISREAD THE WAVES.
...

GAH!
CLATTER
PLUNGE
HUH?
IT'S EXACTLY AS I FEARED!
BUT WHY?!
THERE ARE ONLY FOUR COINS IN THE CUP!
IT SHOULD STILL BE ABLE TO TAKE A DOZEN MORE, EASILY!
wobble

wobble
wibble
wobble
LIKE THE TENSION'S ABOUT TO BREAK?!
SO WHY DOES IT LOOK
WHY?! I DON'T GET IT!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS CUP?!
WHA-
WHA-
WHAT?!
calm

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, MISS AKAHINA?
YOU STOOD UP SUDDENLY WITH A WORRIED LOOK...
WELL, THAT ASIDE, I'VE PUT IN A FOURTH COIN.
WHILE YOU'RE UP, COULD YOU PLEASE REMOVE AN ARTICLE OF CLOTHING?
...
YOU...
WHAT HAS SHE DONE?!
SHE MUST'VE TAMPERED WITH THE CUP SOMEHOW!

DAMN! I'M UP NEXT!
...
FLOP
TCH!
I FILLED THAT CUP WITH SALTWATER MYSELF!
THERE'S NO WAY IT SHOULD BE ABOUT TO SPILL AFTER ONLY FOUR COINS!!
BUT...BUT HOW? WHY? WHAT DID SHE--?
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
IT'S ALMOST LIKE IT'S FRESH-
gasp...
...
FRESH WATER?!
...

WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE DID IT GO?!
WAIT A MINUTE!
DIDN'T SHE HAVE A GLASS OF WATER A FEW MINUTES AGO?
DID YOU FIND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?

I'VE BEEN HAD! SHE TURNED MY OWN TRICK AGAINST ME!!
AH!!
HUH?
SHE SWITCHED THE SALT-WATER...
...WITH FRESH!

SHE MUST'VE NOTICED IT WHEN SHE INSPECTED THE CUP!
SHE TASTED IT AND KNEW IT WAS SALTY!
lick
THEN, SHE DISTRACTED ME WITH THE COIN
AS COMPARED TO THE GREEKS
AND HER STORY ABOUT ANCIENT GREEK BURIAL PRACTICES...
LO PING!

...
CREATING A FULL CUP WITH VERY LITTLE SURFACE TENSION!
SHE TOPPED OFF HER FRESH WATER GLASS WITH WATER FROM THE SALT-WATER CUP,
THEN, WITHOUT MISSING A BEAT,
CLINK
コトッ
SHE RETURNED THE NEW FRESHWATER CUP TO THE TABLE!
EVEN TOPPED OFF WITH SALT-WATER,
THAT'S STILL DILUTED BY AT LEAST NINE TIMES OVER FROM THE CONCENTRATION I NEEDED!

...
WHY DIDN'T SHE PROTEST WHEN SHE FOUND OUT ABOUT IT?
...
SHE KNEW I WAS CHEAT-ING...
BUT WHY KEEP QUIET?
UH?
GASP!
I SAID I'D PLAY WITH YOU, RE-MEMBER?
YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
trem
ble
SO THIS ...
tremble
THIS IS HOW SHE WANTS TO PLAY WITH ME?!
SHE CAN'T MEAN...

GRR
THIS IS THE POWER OF HOSHIMUNE MARIA!!
I WON'T LET MYSELF LOSE TO THAT BRAT!
shake
tremble
THE TENSION IS STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT...
IT CAN PROBABLY HOLD ONE MORE...
NO, WAIT! EVEN ONE MORE MIGHT BE TOO MUCH!

MY CAR IS RUNNING LATE. THIS BLIZZARD IS SNOW FUN FOR THE DRIVER, I EXPECT.
GAH!
OH! SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE A PUN.
IT'D BE COLD OF YOU NOT TO LET IT GO♪
YOU LITTLE BRAT! THAT WAS ALL ON PURPOSE AND YOU KNOW IT!!
CLATTER
AH!
LET SLIP THE CHIP. RIPPLES SKIP.
BUT DON'T TRIP,
FOR SHOULD THEY DRIP,
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THOSE PUNS!!
YOU STRIP!
YOU-

YOU GOD-DAMN LITTLE-
AH!
DRIP
splish

I ALMOST...
hah!!
hah
hah
wheeze
wheeze
Nice save!
clap
clap
THE STORY CONTINUES! READ THE SEQUEL TOO, ONLY IN SHONEN MAGAZINE! (AVAILABLE IN JAPAN ONLY)
he he ♡
THIS IS PRETTY FUN ♪
YOU LITTLE ...!!
THANKS, MISS AKAHINA ♡

Translation by Devon Corwin
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
YKS Services LLC / SKY-Japan Inc.

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TCH!
...
YOU...
YOU LITTLE ...!
I'VE GOT TO CALM DOWN!
SHE'S JUST TRYING TO PISS ME OFF.
THE SURFACE TENSION IS ALREADY AT THE BREAKING POINT...
ALL I HAVE TO DO TO WIN IS GET THROUGH THIS ONE TURN!
BUT...
...

...THAT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE!
CAN ONE MORE COIN EVEN FIT?!
A TINY TREMBLE WILL BE THE END!
I CAN TELL FROM THE WATER'S MOTION THAT THE TENSION IS MAXED!
JUST ONE MORE... BUT EVEN ONE MORE MIGHT...
Jangle
...
YOU WON'T MAKE A FOOL OUT OF ME!

ALTHOUGH MY SURE-WIN STRATEGY WAS DISCOVERED,
THAT ONLY MAKES THE GAME EVEN!
FRIP!
I'VE SURVIVED HUNDREDS OF LIFE-OR-DEATH SITUATIONS LIKE THIS IN THE PAST!
THERE'S NOWHERE TO GO BUT FORWARD! I'M A PRO GAMBLER!!
toss
I CAN WIN! I WILL WIN!
AND SOON, EVERYTHING WILL BE GOING MY WAY!!
THAT'S 90 DEGREES!! I CAN'T BE EVEN A SINGLE DEGREE OFF!!
DROP THE COIN PRECISELY PERPENDICULAR!
PENETRATE THE EXACT CENTER, IN UNDER 1/10TH OF A SECOND!

RIGHT NOW, THIS COIN IS JUST ONE OF MY FINGERS!
CONCEN-TRATE! FEEL THE COIN AS IF IT'S PART OF YOUR BODY!
FEEL THE RESONANCE OF THE WATER!!
FEEL THE RESONANCE OF THE COIN...
AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HER LIFE,
SHE ACHIEVED THE ULTIMATE MENTAL STATE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
AT THAT MOMENT, AKAHINA'S CONCEN-TRATION WAS SO GREAT,
IT WAS AS IF THE COIN WAS WEDDED TO HER NERVOUS SYSTEM!

THE ZEN-LIKE STATE OF "NO MIND"!
SPLI
SH
!!
LI BA-DUM
BA-DUM
...
ぬるお…
bloop
tremble
...
calm
YES!
tink!

I'VE WON!
IF THE TENSION WAS ABOUT TO BREAK BEFORE, THIS TIME IT'S CERTAIN!
THERE'S NO WAY A COIN WON'T MAKE THE WATER SPILL NOW!
I DID IT! I WON!
I BEAT MARIA HOSHI—
TURN
TWAAA

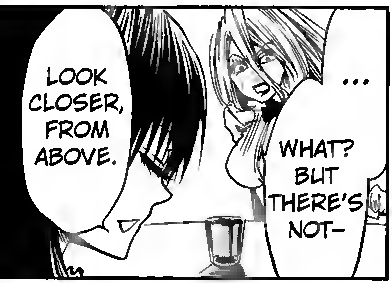
SHE'S SMIL-ING?!
WHAT THE HELL?
creak
OKAY. MY TURN.
TO BE HONEST, I WAS EXPECT-ING YOU TO LOSE THERE.
rustle
BUT YOUR POWER OF CONCEN-TRATION WAS MORE THAN I IMAGINED.
rustle
I'LL HAVE TO RESORT
TOSS
TO MY SECRET TECH-NIQUE!
HUH?
YOUR... YOUR SECRET
hehe
TECH-NIQUE?
YEP
AAAHH?!

AH!
THAT STANCE ...!
HOSHIMUNE FAMILY STYLE COIN-PLACING ART • SECRET TECHNIQUE:
"FLOATING CHERRY BLOSSOM"!
IT'S LIKE SHE'S GATHERING ALL THE AIR
INTO A VORTEX CENTERED ON HERSELF!
WHAT?!
"FLOATING CHERRY BLOSSOM" . .
SO NAMED BECAUSE LIKE A CHERRY BLOSSOM THAT FALLS INTO A RIVER,
ALIGHTING ON THE SURFACE WITH NARY A RIPPLE AND THEN QUIETLY SINKING,

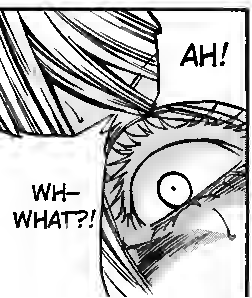
THIS IS A TECHNIQUE KNOWN ONLY TO THE HOSHIMUNE FAMILY!
I WILL PLACE THE COIN IN THE CUP WITHOUT DISTURBING THE WATER.
ACK!
DON'T BE SO SURE.
THE SURFACE TENSION IS AT THE BREAKING POINT! NO MATTER HOW CAREFUL YOU ARE, IT'S PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVEN ONE MORE COIN TO FIT!
WHAT? DON'T GIVE ME THAT CRAP! DON'T YOU GET IT?
WHAT?!
UNLESS IT COULD REMOVE THE "IM" FROM "IMPOSSIBLE" ♡
IT WOULDN'T BE WORTH CALLING A SECRET TECHNIQUE

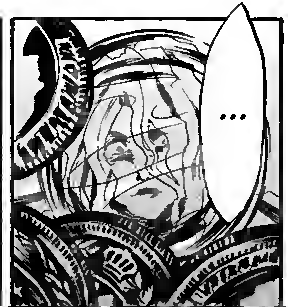
HOSHI-MUNE STYLE SECRET FLOATING TECH-CHERRY NIQUE: BLOSSOM!

FWOOOSH
WHA-?
FLOOP!


LOOK CLOSER, FROM ABOVE.
...
WHAT? BUT THERE'S NOT-

SUC-CESS!
...


AH!
WH-WHAT?!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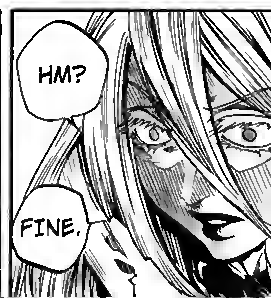
HM?
FINE.

BAM!
HOW? HOW IS THERE A SIXTH COIN?!
ARGH!

THEN HOW DID SHE DO IT?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
NOT ONLY DID IT NOT SPILL, IT DIDN'T EVEN MAKE WAVES!
DID SHE SNEAK AN EXTRA ONE IN BEFOREHAND?
NO, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE I'VE BEEN WATCHING THIS ENTIRE TIME!
DAMN YOU, MARIA HOSHIMUNE!
WELL, MISS AKI-HINA?
IT'S YOUR TURN ♡

FLUMP
PA-POW!
rattle
rattle
rattle
rattle
rattle
POW!
SHE WAS FORCE-FULLY MADE TO REALIZE THAT THE WATER
THAT'S WHEN AKAHINA BEGAN TO REGRET
EVER CHAL-LENGING MARIA HOSHI-MUNE.

WAS ENTIRELY UNDER
MARIA'S CONTROL.
COME ON IN, THE WATER'S FINE!

I... I CAN'T!
ME? GET IN THERE?
crackle
crackle
crackle
AH!
WITHOUT SPILLING A SINGLE DROP?!
THESE SIX COINS FIT JUST FINE
I'M SURE A SEVENTH WILL BE JUST AS EASY.
splish
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!

NO WAY!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
IT'LL NEVER FIT!
carefully
EVEN ONE MORE IS TOO MUCH!
LOOK! SEE?
splish
IT'LL SPILL! THERE'S NO WAY!
IT'S TOTALLY ABSOLUTELY COMPLETELY COMPREHENSIVELY UNCONDITIONALLY WHOLLY UTTERLY 100-PERCENT IMPOSSIBLE!
RUMBLE
IT'S POINTLESS!
wibble
wibble
wibble
THERE'S JUST NO WAY...

WILL NEVER FIT!
SOME-THING THIS BIG
THE STORY CONTINUES! READ THE SEQUEL TOO, ONLY IN SHONEN MAGAZINE! (AVAILABLE IN JAPAN ONLY)

UH-OH ♪
YOU SPILLED IT ♡

DRIBBLE

MangaBox

Story by
Kenji Sakumoto
Art by
Isora

Translation by Devon Corwin
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
YKS Services, LLC / SKY Japan Inc.

BY THE WAY, DO YOU KNOW WHERE MISS AKAHINA WENT, MR. HIGEMATSU?
IT'S BEEN TEN MINUTES SINCE SHE RAN OFF. AND SHE LEFT HER TROUSERS BEHIND!
I BELIEVE SHE MIGHT HAVE ABANDONED THE CLOTHING IN HER RUSH TO ESCAPE...
I SEE.
WELL, IT SERVES HER RIGHT!
IF SHE COULDN'T EVEN BEAT A KID LIKE ME AT HER SPECIALTY,
SHE DESERVES TO BE TAKEN DOWN A FEW NOTCHES.
I WONDER IF SHE'LL EVER GAMBLE AGAIN?
...
SHE TOOK DOWN THAT PRO GAMBLER AS EASY AS STEALING CANDY FROM A BABY!
I CAN SEE WHY THEY CALL HER
THE GODLIKE GAMBLER!

UM... EXCUSE ME...
DA APPROACH
YOU BELONG TO ME NOW, ARIMA.
I JUST KNOW YOU'LL BE PERFECT FOR THE JOB.
...
I'M NOT WORTH THE RISK OF YOU BEING SEEN NAKED!
SO WHY DID YOU RISK YOURSELF FOR ME?
MISTRESS... IF I CAN ASK YOU A QUESTION...
...THINK OF IT LIKE THIS.
THEY SAY WORLD-CLASS GYMNASTS HAVE
ONLY ABOUT 4% BODY FAT.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE MAJORITY OF THEIR BODY IS MUSCLE.
HOWEVER, THEY CAN'T THROW A FAST-BALL AT ANY-WHERE NEAR THE SPEED OF A PRO BASE-BALL PLAYER.
EVEN THOUGH THEIR BODY IS MOSTLY MUSCLE.
DO YOU KNOW WHY? IT'S BECAUSE THEY TRAINED FOR GYM-NASTICS.
THEY HAVE GYMNASTICS MUSCLES. THEY DON'T HAVE THE MUSCLES TO THROW BASE-BALLS.
I REQUIRE A SERVANT FOR MY PERSONAL USE.
ONE WHOSE MIND AND BODY HAVE BEEN TRAINED FOR MY SPECIFIC PURPOSES.
YOU HAVE THE QUALITIES I'M LOOKING FOR,
SO I WANTED YOU.

DO I REALLY HAVE WHAT SHE NEEDS...?
QUALITIES?
...
DON'T BE ABSURD!
OF COURSE THERE'S NO SUCH TECHNIQUE!
hmm...
THAT A TECHNIQUE TO DROP A COIN WITHOUT MAKING EVEN A TINY WAVE REALLY EXISTS!
EVEN AFTER SEEING IT IN ACTION, I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT!
...
ha ha ha!
I SUPPOSE IT'S A TESTAMENT TO THE MIGHT OF THE HOSHIMUNE FAMILY!
UMM... WHAT?
...

NO SUCH TECH-NIQUE?! BUT... BUT MISTRESS!
POP
IF THERE'S NO SUCH TECHNIQUE, HOW DID YOU PUT IN THE SIXTH COIN?
I FAKED IT.
I NEVER DROPPED IT IN.
WHAT?!
I MADE AKAHINA THINK I'D PUT IN A SIXTH COIN
turn
TO FORCE HER TO TAKE TWO TURNS IN A ROW.
IT'S AN EYE FOR AN EYE, OR IN THIS CASE, A CHEAT FOR A CHEAT.
SHE WAS THE ONE WHO CHEATED FIRST, SO IT'S NOTHING LESS THAN WHAT SHE DESERVED.
HUH?
? ?
YOU FAKED IT? BUT HOW?
EASY.
SNAP

I PUT A COIN BENEATH THE CUP BEFORE WE BEGAN.
CLINK
slip
THEN I MERELY WAITED UNTIL THE NEXT COIN WOULD MAKE THE CUP OVERFLOW,
AND THAT'S WHEN I PRETENDED TO DROP IT IN.
OF COURSE MISS AKAHINA HAD TO CHECK WHETHER I'D PUT IN A COIN, SO SHE LOOKED INTO THE CUP FROM ABOVE.
THE CUP WITH AN EXTRA COIN UNDER IT, THAT IS.
grin
WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE SAW?
HUHH?!
hmm...
...
...NO WAY!

ALONG WITH THE FIVE LEGITIMATE COINS,
THERE WAS CLEARLY A SIXTH!
SO SHE TOOK THE NEXT TURN, AND PUT IN THE DISASTROUS SEVENTH COIN.
WHICH, TO BE FAIR, THAT WOULD TECHNICALLY BE THE SIXTH COIN.

BUT... HOLD ON A SEC!
THE WATER AND THE GLASS CUP ARE BOTH TRANS-PARENT!
ALLOW ME TO DEMON-STRATE.
CLINK
IF THE COIN WAS THERE FROM THE START?
WOULDN'T AKAHINA HAVE NOTICED
YOU CAN SEE THAT IT'S BENEATH THE CUP IF IT'S EMPTY.
BUT...
WHA?!
POUR
POUR
POUR

THE COIN! IT VANISHED!
BUT HOW?!
IT'S CALLED "REFRACTION."
AHH...
OOH...
THE LIGHT BENDS AS IT ENTERS THE WATER,
MEANING THERE'S NO LINE OF SIGHT TO THE COIN BELOW.
OF COURSE, THAT'S ONLY TRUE FROM THE SIDE.
he he
IF YOU LOOK STRAIGHT DOWN AT IT, YOU CAN STILL SEE IT♪

SHE THOUGHT THAT FAR AHEAD IN HER PLAN?!
...
AND WOULDN'T CHECK UNDER THE CUP EITHER!
SHE KNEW AKAHINA WOULDN'T COUNT THE COINS AFTER EACH PLAY,
THERE IS ONE THING.
MIS-TRESS,
STAND!
THE MORE COINS, THE HIGHER THE RISK OF THAT HAPPENING...
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF THE CUP HAD A LOT OF COINS IN IT
AND THEY COVERED UP THE SECRET COIN?
...

AH!
BA-DUM!
GRIP!
IT'S GOOD THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN, ISN'T IT?
HM?
EXCUSE ME, LADY MARIA...
GREAK
IT'S ALMOST DUSK.
WE SHOULD BE ON OUR WAY.
HMM...
AH!
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT HIM OUT IN THE COLD LIKE THIS?
JUMP!
SHIVER
WE DON'T SEEM TO HAVE SPARE CLOTHING ON HAND FOR THE BOY.

IS IT REALLY OKAY TO TAKE HER COAT?
SHE WAS THE ONE WHO LEFT IT BEHIND.
LET'S GO. WE'VE A LONG WALK AHEAD.
HUH? DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU HAD A CAR ON THE WAY?
OH? DID I SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
crunch
crunch
crunch
crunch
crunch
ARI-MA,
I WANT TO MAKE SOMETHING ABSOLUTELY CLEAR.

AS THE HEIR TO THE FAMOUS HOSHIMUNE GAMBLING FAMILY,
I'VE INHERITED MANY ENEMIES AS WELL.
WHICH MEANS, ABOVE AND BEYOND YOUR DUTY AS AN ATTENDANT,
YOU'LL NEED TO BE STRONG.
YOU'LL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING ME FROM THEM.
GULP
I THINK YOU'VE OVERESTIMATED ME, MISTRESS.
I'M SMALL, WEAK, AND CLUMSY...
AND YOU CAN SEE HOW DIRTY I AM TOO.
I'M NOT QUALIFIED TO BE YOUR ATTENDANT.
...
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE NOT.
HM?

M-
MIS-
TR-
RWRWR
RUB SCRUB DRUB
ACK!
SMACK!
fwap
THAT'S ONE PROBLEM DOWN.
WHAT DID YOU DO THAT FOR?
slump
...
NO CLOTHES? I'LL BUY YOU SOME. AND YOU CAN TACKLE YOUR PHYSICAL DRAWBACKS AS WE GO.
IF YOU'RE DIRTY, CLEAN YOURSELF UP.
FLUT
TER
HUH?
BUT I'LL HAVE YOU WORK TO IMPROVE YOURSELF STEADILY, LITTLE BY LITTLE.
I DIDN'T SAY YOU WERE PERFECT. YOU DON'T NEED TO BE.

EVEN IF ALL YOU CAN PROTECT ME FROM RIGHT NOW IS THE SNOW,
THAT'S STILL SOMETHING. IT'S A START.
WELL, ARIMA?

RIGHT AWAY!
...
"I REQUIRE A SERVANT FOR MY PERSONAL USE"
"ONE WHOSE MIND AND BODY HAVE BEEN TRAINED FOR MY SPECIFIC PURPOSES"
WELL? HURRY UP. I'M BEING SNOWED ON.
RUN
smile
R-

HUH ...?
NGUH
OH NO! I FELL ASLEEP!
RNG
AAAAA
MMNG
IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS SINCE THEN ALREADY.
THAT DREAM SURE TOOK ME BACK THOUGH...
SLEEP WELL?

GOOD MORNING, ARIMA.

I HEARD YOU CALLING MY NAME IN YOUR SLEEP.
CARE TO TELL ME WHAT YOUR DREAM WAS ABOUT?
BA-DUM!
ACK!!
IT- IT- IT WASN'T WHAT YOU THINK!!
I WAS DREAMING OF SOME-THING FROM A LONG TIME AGO!
DID- DID I REALLY CALL YOUR NAME?!
REPEAT-EDLY♪
VROOM
JUST A PLEASANT MEMORY
OF A TIME LONG PAST.
THIS STORY MAY BE OVER, BUT ARIMA AND MARIA'S ADVENTURES CONTINUE IN SHONEN MAGAZINE!
(AVAILABLE IN JAPAN ONLY)